

Amendments to the Claims

This list of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A bearing arrangement for absorbing axial loads, comprising:

a plurality of axial roller bearings arranged one behind the other; ~~and each having~~
a housing ~~plate~~ plates; ~~and (1.1, 1.2, 1.3), a shaft plate plates, (2.1, 2.2) and the axial~~
~~roller bearings forming~~ rolling body sets ~~(3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4) arranged between these~~
~~runner plates the housing plates and the shaft plates~~, the shaft plates ~~(2.1, 2.2)~~ and the
housing plates ~~(1.1, 1.2, 1.3)~~ being supported axially by means of spacer rings ~~(5.1,~~
~~4.1, 4.2) arranged between them in each case~~ each of the shaft plates and each of the
housing plates,

~~characterized in that~~ wherein the housing plates ~~(1.1, 1.2, 1.3)~~ and the shaft plates
~~(2.1, 2.2)~~ have a constant axial thickness over their entire radial extent in the a region
of the rolling body sets ~~(3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4)~~, and at least one of the shaft plates ~~(2.1,~~
~~2.2)~~ ~~is provided at its~~ has an annular clearance at an inner circumference ~~with an~~
~~annular clearance (6)~~ which is inwardly open in the a radial direction.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) The bearing arrangement ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ a securing ring (7) is ~~provided at least in one of~~ fitted in the clearances ~~(6)~~ clearance.
5. (Currently Amended) The bearing arrangement ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 4, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the securing ring (7) is composed of an elastic material.
6. (Currently Amended) The bearing arrangement ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 4, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the securing ring (7) has a slot (7.1).